

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A medical filter for therapeutic treatment of a patient, comprising:  
a first and second end defining a longitudinal axis;  
a plurality of struts extending between the first and second ends, the struts tending to resiliently expand in radially outward directions from a compressed initial shape to an expanded deployed shape;  
wherein in the expanded deployed shape, the struts define a first and second filter section and a center section connecting the filter sections;  
wherein each of the first and second filter sections define a number of filter cells, and the second filter section defines a greater number of filter cells than the first filter section;  
such that the second filter section exhibits a greater filtering efficiency than the first filter section.
2. The filter of Claim 1, adapted for use in a body passage or vessel defining a fluid flow direction, such that the first filter section is positioned upstream of the second filter section.
3. The filter of Claim 1, wherein the filter is formed out of one single unitary metal element.
4. The filter of Claim 1, adapted for use in the vena cava.
5. The filter of Claim 1, further comprising anchors formed on at least one surface of the vascular filter, adapted to increase position retention of the filter.

6. The filter of Claim 1, wherein in the expanded shape, a central portion of each strut tends to extend parallel to the longitudinal axis.
7. The filter of Claim 1, wherein the filter is made of nitinol.
8. A medical filter for therapeutic treatment of a patient, comprising:
  - a first and second end defining a longitudinal axis;
  - a plurality of struts extending between the first and second ends, the struts tending to resiliently expand in radially outward directions from a compressed initial shape to an expanded deployed shape;
  - wherein in the expanded deployed shape, the struts define a first and second filter section and a center section connecting the filter sections;
  - wherein the second filter section has a greater number of struts than the first filter section;
  - such that the second filter section exhibits a greater filtering efficiency than the first filter section.